

We Claim:

1. A method for obtaining an account balance of a wireless communication account, said wireless communication account associated with an account identifier, comprising:
 - associating a handset identifier with said wireless communication account;
 - transmitting a first message to an account maintenance system in response to a user selection of a predetermined handset key, said first message comprising at least said handset identifier and said account identifier; and
 - a handset associated with the handset identifier obtaining said account balance by receiving a second message, the second message providing an account balance for the wireless communication account associated with said account identifier.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said transmitting a first message comprises:
 - enabling a soft key from a plurality of handset keys for replenishment of an account;
 - associating said account identifier with said soft key;
 - associating a null amount with said soft key; and
 - said transmitting of said first message being in response to a user selection of said soft key, said first message comprising a null amount, said account identifier, and said handset identifier.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said first message further comprises payment account data.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said second message is an SMS message.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined handset key is a directional key.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the wireless communication account is a prepaid telephone account.